



**Minutes of the 4th Quarterly Meeting of the NC Military Affairs Commission
December 15, 2016, Fort Bragg Training Center**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

BG Bud Martin, USA Ret., Chairman
BGen Paul Dordal, USAF Retired, Vice Chairman
LtGen Gary McKissock, USMC Retired, MCB CLJ
Col. Frank Bottorff, USMC Retired, Cherry Point
MGen Robert Dickerson, USMC Retired, MCB CLJ (phone)
Col. Jeffrey Sanborn, USA Retired, Fort Bragg
Hon. George Breece, Fayetteville
CAPT Tony Stimatz, USCG Retired, Eliz. City
Sgt Maj William Hatcher, USMC Retired, MCB CLJ
Mr. Cresswell Elmore, Cherry Point
Hon. Patricia Walker, At-large
RADM Steve Ratti, USCG Retired, At-large
Maj Gen Jimmy Stewart, USAFR Retired, Public Member
Hon. Chuck Allen, Goldsboro/Seymour Johnson
Jeremiah Daniels, Seymour Johnson/Goldsboro
Rep. George Cleveland, NCGA
Sally Ann Gupta, A/R for Sen. Harry Brown (by phone)

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS AND AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES:

Will Best, NC Dept. of Commerce
Asst. Sec'y Jim Prosser, Div. of Veterans Affairs
Sebastian Montagne, Dept. of Transportation
Robert Hosford, Department of Agriculture & CA
Bryan Gossage, Natural & Cultural Resources
BG Clarence Ervin, NCNG
Drew Moretz, UNC-GA
Charles Gross, UNC-GA

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

MGen Cornell A. Wilson, USMC Retired, DMVA Secretary
Paul Friday, MCI-East
Bill Meier, MCI-East
Bryan Ayers, MCI-East
Tina Paulson, MCI-East School Liaison
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville
Stewart Cox, Seymour Johnson AFB
Austen Shearer, A/R for Sen. Tillis
Marc Finlayson, Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT)
Whitney Christensen, ACT
Jimmy Edmundson, Friends of Seymour Johnson
Col. Pete Benton, USA Retired (Councilman, Wayne Co.)
BG T.D. Weidley, MCI-East
Col. Todd Ferry, MCAS Cherry Point
Bill Holman, The Conservation Fund
Barry Hull, Fort Bragg
SgtMaj S.D. Grade, MCI-East

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance Chairman Martin called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Attendance was taken of those dialing in to the meeting, and the Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. It was determined that a quorum of voting members were present.

Administrative & Departmental Update Secretary Wilson briefed the Commission on activities at the Department (DMVA):

- A NC Military Hall of Fame (NCMHOF) study was authorized last year. Findings showed that a freestanding museum would be most expensive, an exhibit in an existing museum second most expensive, and a virtual museum least expensive. It is expected to cost \$1.5M up front and \$8,000 - \$10,000 per year in upkeep. DMVA is strongly considering an online component to any in-person museum approach. The Department of Cultural Resources is to be the lead, with the DMVA in a supporting role in NCMHOF operations. Secretary Wilson suggests branches should determine selection process. The NC Museum of History already has a "Call to Arms" exhibit and would love to expand it. Fayetteville already has a military museum, but the NCMHOF in Raleigh would be more accessible to students who come to Raleigh for field trips already.
- DMVA is renaming the western veteran's home to honor Zeb Alley pursuant to 2016 legislation.
- DMVA just posted positions for new veteran's cemetery staff that the budget recently funded.
- Bases are doing a lot more with less currently; BRAC is expected soon. Bases have 30% excess capacity. DMVA wants the F35 lift facility at Cherry Point in the upcoming budget.
- Additional projects being pursued by DMVA were mentioned briefly, including the KC46A in Goldsboro and the C17s at the Charlotte Douglas airport that the DMVA is pursuing.
- The largest share of BRAC funds from the budget have been spent on Matrix.
- DMVA is looking for public-private funding for the lift fan facility.

Consent Agenda The Commission approved the August meeting minutes. Chairman Martin gave an overview of the new NCMAC committee structure and members in order to meet the new bylaw requirement to have every installation represented on each committee. The new committee membership lists were shared on the projector and later provided to each commission member by email.

Public Comments

- Secretary Wilson thanked the National Guard for their responses to the Western NC wildfires and Hurricane Matthew.
- Chairman Martin shared that he recently met with Speaker Moore about the need for funding of the lift fan facility and would provide more details from that discussion later in the meeting.

COUNCIL / COMMITTEE UPDATES

NC Commanders Council Paul Friday briefed the Commission on the morning NC Commanders Council meeting where the following topics were covered:

- Solar and wind energy, including the uncertainty at the federal level of renewable energy credits.
- Sentinel landscape funding.
- The Z Smith Reynolds Foundation and its current search for communities they can help.

Quality of Life Committee

Committee Chairman Jeff Sanborn briefed the Commission on Committee activities, as follows.

- *Child Crisis Stabilization Unit* - Although \$2 million was supposed to be carved out of the Dorothea Dix proceeds to fund the facility/unit, they have recently learned that the money cannot be used for the intended purpose, so they will be investigating whether any of the remaining \$18 million in Dix funds can be accessed.
- *Occupational Licensing* - Occupational licensing issues raised by Sen. Wells were covered in the most recent Quality of Life meeting. Committee members are actively looking for military spouses to testify in committees when Sen. Wells runs legislation in 2017 to ease occupational licensing requirements on military spouses. Sen. Brown may cosponsor the legislation. Sally Ann Gupta is compiling a list of licensing requirements in the fields that are popular to NC military spouses.
- *NC4ME Grant* – DMVA still working on Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Legislative Affairs Committee

Sally-Ann Gupta briefed the Commission by phone on behalf of Committee Chairman Senator Harry Brown, as follows.

- *NCMAC Funding Requests* - Ms. Gupta urged the NCMAC to ensure that all of their funding requests are included in the Governor's budget to facilitate Sen. Brown's execution of their requests on the Senate side. This is important in light of the lift fan facility request, especially pending any administration changes.
- *Senate Military & Veterans Affairs Committee* - Chairman Brown is optimistic that Senator Berger will authorize a Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, and asks that the Commission to be mindful that if there is an administration change, they will need to be educated on the purpose/function and how they interface with DMVA.
- *Wind legislation* - Vice Chairman Dordal asked Ms. Gupta for a status update on 2017 wind legislation, pointing out that the effort to compile the maps did not result in enacted legislation in 2016. Gupta shared that legislators are discussing how to reintroduce the 2016 legislation next session. There are no plans to change the language in the bill.

Economic Development Committee

Committee Chairman Jimmy Stewart briefed the Commission on matters before the Committee.

- The NC Military Business Center's DEFTECH funding is pending. With the funding for the new military position (\$120,000 annually) at the Economic Development Partnership (EDPNC) in place, a West Point graduate has been hired and will begin working in January.
- Lacy Pate gave an update on the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) grant that the DMVA is currently pursuing through the Department of Defense (DOD) alongside NC State University. The award is expected in December or January, and will be followed by a media event to announce it.
- Chuck Gross with the University of North Carolina System provided an update on efforts to award college credit for military training in NC. His team will pursue legislation again in 2017 to further these efforts. The group discussed how important this initiative is.

Base Sustainability and Community Affairs

Committee Chairman Bob Dickerson briefed the Commission by phone on the following matters before his Committee.

- *Sentinel Landscapes* – There is a need for additional funding for Sentinel Landscape; the current \$150,000 annually is "just enough to keep the lights on."

Motion/Discussion: Chairman Dickerson made a motion to approve the recommendation that Secretary Wilson increase this funding to \$300,000 per year. The motion was followed by discussion by the group, a second by Commissioner Bottorff and the motion was passed without further discussion.

- Brief discussion of scheduled updates on the grant process and military police training.
- Discussion of water quality and the need for well monitoring in Jacksonville.

BRAC Preparation

Vice Chairman Dordal stated the BRAC preparation agenda item should be bypassed because it was covered so thoroughly at the last meeting.

Matrix/Roosevelt Group Update

John Simmons presented an update using a PowerPoint presentation focusing on the presidential election and potential impact to the military. He speculated about potential appointees to positions of Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense. He discussed the team's outlook on the results of a lame duck session and the expectation that sequestration, the debt limit, repeal of many of President Obama's Executive Orders and regulations, a temporary or partial freeze on immigration, repeal or modification of Obamacare, revision of trade deals including the death of the Trans Pacific Partnership

and a request for significant infrastructure spending would be discussed during the first 100 days of Trump's presidency. He also expects Trump to wait until at least the summer to make his Supreme Court appointment. He expects Trump's DOD budget to call for a 20 percent (\$55 billion) increase in defense spending. It is reported that the issue with funding the lift fan facility continues to be infighting between the Navy and Marine Corps and that the delay is jeopardizing the Italian F35 sales. His understanding is that the funding for the facility is in the request and not likely to be removed.

NCMAC Priorities Discussion

Vice Chairman Dordal explained the intent to transition to a plan where the NCMAC's committee chairs would be charged with following through on priorities that are under the purview of their committees and ultimately be held responsible for their implementation. He also emphasized the importance of the Community Coordinators in suggesting and implementing the NCMAC's priorities.

Additional Presentations

Communications Subcommittee- Ms. Pat Walker provided an update on the work of the Communication Subcommittee, including that she had been working with Matrix, Ms. Gupta and Ms. Pate on a communications plan. The UNC students presented feedback that they received to the Strategic Plan. Some members of the Commission expressed that they would like to see additional work on the overall strategic communications plan for the MAC. Vice Chairman Dordal suggested hiring a marketing firm with remaining funds from this budget cycle. The group decided to wait on a vote on this until the consultant contract is renewed and they are able to determine if they can perform services along those lines.

The Subcommittee is exploring getting the NCMAC more active on social media. Frank Bottorff updated the group on the NCMAC's new communications plan, which included identifying the NCMAC's different audiences and developing an overarching brand and message. He explained that the Governor's recent letter regarding the need for the lift fan facility was a very significant step toward securing the funding.

NCMAC Budget Request: Chairman Martin gave a quick budget request update, listing a few of the larger items the NCMAC would be requesting and explaining that the total ask came to just under \$2 million. Secretary Wilson would have the authority to control that funding if approved.

The Chairman explained that he thought that the \$5 million request of state funds for the lift fan facility would be approved and that all \$5 million might not be needed, but hopefully will be available. He also shared that \$10 million had been requested for grant money for off post projects like the Jacksonville water issue and \$5 million had been requested for grant money for on post projects. The Chairman noted that during his discussion with the Speaker's staff, the Chairman was apparently asked which was more important "if he had to choose one" and he responded that the off-post grant money was more important.

AUSA - The AUSA Annual Meeting update was bypassed.

Adjournment

Minutes of the 4th Quarter Meeting (12/15/16)

Absent additional questions or comments, Chairman Martin adjourned the meeting.

DRAFT